

# Appendix F. Memo Defining the Role of the Long Valley Observatory Scientist-in Charge Under an EVENT RESPONSE

United States Department of the Interior  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Volcano Hazards Team  
345 Middlefield Road - Mail Stop 977  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

phone: 415-329-4795 FAX: 415-329-5163  
e-mail: hill@andreas.wr.usgs.gov

September 29, 1999

## MEMO

To: Chip Groat; Director  
From: Dave Hill; Scientist in Charge, Long Valley Observatory  
Through: Bob Tilling; Chief Scientist, Volcano Hazards Team  
Patrick Muffler; Western Regional Geologist  
Pat Leahy; Chief Geologist  
Subject: Updating the Long Valley caldera response plan

The existing Long Valley caldera response plan (OFR 91-270), which was published in June 1991, is still in force. We are currently updating this response plan to incorporate a number of post-1991 developments that have an impact on specific elements in the plan. The most important of these developments include:

- 1) scientific advances in our understanding of restless volcanic systems based on experience gained through research and monitoring efforts on restless and erupting volcanic systems throughout the world over the past nine years,
- 2) the four-level color-code notification scheme for monitoring volcanic unrest in the Long Valley-Mono Craters area, which supercedes the alphabetic scheme published in OFR 91-270 and was formally adopted on 12 June 1997, and
- 3) recent organizational changes within the U.S. Geological Survey.

The purpose of this memo is to confirm with you the role of the Scientist-in-Charge (SIC) for the Long Valley Observatory (LVO) during a USGS EVENT RESPONSE to an escalating volcanic crisis in the Long Valley caldera area as spelled out in OFR 91-270 and in light of recent organizational changes within the USGS.

As specified in OFR 91-270, an EVENT RESPONSE entails moving the center for monitoring and communication operations from Menlo Park to our field office in Mammoth Lakes. Under these circumstances, the role of the Scientist-in-Charge for LVO is specified in the first paragraph of page 18 and the fourth paragraph (item [4]) on page 20 of OFR 91-270.

The following, for your approval, are the updated versions to these two paragraphs proposed for inclusion with the updated Long Valley response plan. Note that the only changes involve replacing "Chief, OEVE (Office of Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Engineering)" with "Western Regional Geologist" and "Chief Scientist (for Long Valley caldera-Mono Craters monitoring, or LVC/MC)" with "Scientist-in-Charge", respectively. In this context, "Scientist-in-Charge" means Scientist-in-Charge (SIC) of the Long Valley Observatory (LVO).

### Paragraph 2, pg 18 of OFR 91-270

When activity at LVC/MC becomes sufficiently intense to prompt the declaration of EVENT RESPONSE conditions by the Western Regional Geologist, the Scientist-in-Charge (SIC) initiates establishment of a field center and ensures that all relevant monitoring, hazards, and support personnel are rapidly mobilized and dispatched to that field center. Under these Event Response Conditions, the SIC has full authority to direct all USGS personnel engaged in the response, wherever physically or organizationally located, and to call upon the resources of all USGS units assigned to and necessary for monitoring, hazards assessment, and support activities (see Response and General Operational Procedures below).

### Paragraph 4, pg 20 of OFR 91-270 (Item [4] under Response and General Operational Procedures)

[4] *Assignment of EVENT RESPONSE Personnel:* Either in advance of or upon declaration of EVENT RESPONSE Conditions, the Western Regional Geologist or the Scientist-in-Charge (of LVO), will make arrangements for the assignment of appropriate personnel and other resources from all USGS units. Once these resources are secured, the SIC has the full authority for assignment of LVC/MC EVENT RESPONSE personnel. Normally, his or her requests for personnel or equipment will be discussed with and relayed through the appropriate supervisor, who must make every effort to supply the resources requested. In the event that a supervisor is not available, the SIC may contact and assign individuals directly. Should the LVC/MC EVENT RESPONSE situation occur simultaneously with heightened activity elsewhere, conflicting demands for personnel and resource will be resolved, if necessary, by the Western Regional Geologist. Once assigned to a LVC/MC EVENT RESPONSE Team, all personnel and equipment fall under the authority of the EVENT RESPONSE structure until released by the SIC or the Volcano Hazards Team Chief Scientist.

Approved  Director

cc. Andrea Alpine, Acting Regional Director  
Marianne Guffanti, Coordinator, Volcano Hazards Program